

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 00115 141644Z

43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 SCEM-02 INT-08

SCI-06 DRC-01 IO-14 OC-06 CCO-00 /166 W

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R 141536Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5845

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 0115

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, ENRG, UY

SUBJECT: URUGUAY ADOPTS MEASURES TO SAVE ENERGY

1. SUMMARY. ON JAN. 11 THE GOU DECREED A SERIES OF MEASURES TO CONSERVE ELECTRICITY AND FUEL CONSUMPTION IN VIEW OF THE CRISIS CAUSED BY SHARP INCREASES IN INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM PRICES. FOLLOWING ARE THE PRINCIPAL MEASURES, WHICH HAVE ALREADY TAKEN EFFECT AND WILL REMAIN IN FORCE INDEFINITELY.

2. STARTING JAN. 13, URUGUAY HAS ADOPTED AN HOUR AND A HALF DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME. URUGUAYAN TIME THEREFORE IS NOW GREENWICH MEAN TIME MINUS ONE AND A HALF HOURS.

3. BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL USERS OF ELECTRICITY ARE URGED TO CUT CONSUMPTION BY THIRTY PERCENT. USE OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES IS TO BE REDUCED TO A MINIMUM. BUILDINGS ARE TO OPERATE ONLY ONE ELEVATOR. STREET LIGHTING IS CUT FIFTY PERCENT. INDUSTRIES ARE TO GRANT VACATIONS TO THEIR PERSONNEL BETWEEN NOW AND MID-MARCH. TELEVISION STATIONS WILL TRANSMIT ONLY BETWEEN 7.00 PM AND MIDNIGHT.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MONTEV 00115 141644Z

4. PRIVATE AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES ARE PROHIBITED FROM DRIVING ONE

DAY PER WEEK. VEHICLES WITH EVEN NUMBERED LICENSE PLATES MUST STAY OFF THE STREETS WEDNESDAYS, WITH ODD NUMBERED LICENSE PLATES THURSDAYS. EXEMPTED FROM THIS PROHIBITION ARE CARS WITH DIPLOMATIC OR FOREIGN LICENSE PLATES AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES SUCH AS DOCTORS, AMBULANCES, POLICE, FIRE AND MILITARY VEHICLES AND DEMONSTRABLE EMERGENCIES. BUSES AND TAXICABS OF COURSE WILL CIRCULATE AT ALL TIMES BUT CANNOT BE USED FOR PLEASURE DRIVING. OTHER RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSPORTATION MAY BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY.

5. IN ANNOUNCING THE ABOVE DECREE, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE EXHORTED URUGUAYANS TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THESE MEASURES AND WARNED THAT OTHERS MIGHT BECOME NECESSARY. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE RESTRICTION ON VEHICLES WAS DEvised IN SUCH A WAY AS TO CAUSE THE LEAST POSSIBLE INCONVENIENCE TO TOURISM, THIS BEING THE HEIGHT OF URUGUAY'S TOURIST SEASON. BUT HE STRESSED THE GRAVITY OF THE OIL PRICE RISES TO URUGUAY, WHICH MUST IMPORT 100 PERCENT OF ITS PETROLEUM. IT IS GENERALLY CALCULATED THAT IF URUGUAY IMPORTS IN 1974 THE SAME AMOUNT OF PETROLEUM IMPORTED IN 1973, THE COST THEREOF WILL RISE FROM SOME \$50 MILLION TO \$150 MILLION.

6. THIS EMBASSY HAD ALREADY ADOPTED SOME ELECTRICITY SAVING MEASURES PRIOR TO THE DECREE. WE ARE URGING EMBASSY PERSONNEL TO COMPLY WITH THE DECREE MEASURES IN HOMES AND OFFICES. EVEN THOUGH DIPLOMATIC CARS ARE EXEMPTED FROM THE DRIVING PROHIBITION, WE PLAN TO KEEP OUR EMBASSY VEHICLES, BOTH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATELY OWNED, OFF THE STREETS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECREE ON WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE WITHOUT HARMING NORMAL OPERATIONS.
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